[*Translation*]

Fertilizer Factory in Hodel, Faridabad

3692. SHRI SHIVLAL NAGJIBHAI VEKARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to establish a fertilizer factory near Hodel in district Faridabad;

(b) if so, the estimated cost thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be installed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISER (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[*English*]

Scheme for Agro-Rural Industries

3693. SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATTANAYAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced any centrally sponsored schemes for setting up of agro-rural industries in rural areas of country;

(b) if so, the allocation made under the scheme during the last three years, Statewise;

(c) whether any review of the scheme has been conducted; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) No, Sir. However, Centrally sponsored schemes under implementation during the last three years were in the nature of development of industrially backward areas, promotion of handlooms and handicrafts.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Amendment in Minimum Wages Act

3694. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ:
SHRI BAPUHARI CHAURE:
SHRI B. DEVARAJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Minimum Wages Act and to introduce a variable dearness allowance in accordance with the Consumer Price Index ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b). The proposals to amend the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 have not yet been finalised. Pending amendment of the Act, the State Government and Union Territory Administrations had been requested to have a minimum wage with Variable Dearness allowance linked to All India Consumer Price Index.

[*English*]

Steem Coal to Ceramic Industry

3695. SHRI S. B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether erratic and inferior delivery

of steam coal has affected cermic industry in North India recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to supply adequate steams coal; and

(d) the number of new ceramic in open cast mines opened to raise production during non-rainy season in 1991?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c). Government have been giving preference in allotment of railway wagons of movement of coal to priority sectors which include power, cement, steel, railways and fertilizers. Due to limited availability of railway wagons, coal movement by rail to other consumers including ceramic industries has been affected. Steps are being taken by the Government to increase production and despatch of coal with a view to improve its availability to all consumers including ceramic industries. Cermic industry generally insists on supply of coal from a few selected underground mines, whose production has not kept pace with increase in demand because of depletion of their coal reserves. If the industry were to eccept coal from other sources also, its level of satisfaction will be much higher.

(d) It is presumed that the Hon'ble Member is referring to opencast mines sanctioned in the country during the year 1991. During the year 1990-91 and 1991-92, Government have sanctioned 4 new large opencast coal mine projects in the country. These are in addition to the projects sanctioned by the coal companies themselves.

[*Translation*]

Illiteracy in Colliery Areas

3696. SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV

SHRI NANI BHATTACHARYA

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the illiteracy percentage is higher in colliery areas;

(b) if so, the area-wise details thereof; and

(c) the target fixed by the Government for removing illiteracy during the last three years and the extent to which these targets have been achieved?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Investments in Coal Companies

3697. SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total investment made in the Coal Companies and subsidiarise during the last three years;

(b) whether most of the companies engaged in the coalfields have suffered losses during the said period; and

(c) if so, the reasons for incurring losses?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) Investment in the various coal companies including Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) and subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL) during the last three years are given below: